

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJ: CENTO: FIRST BAC MEETING 1975

1. CENTO BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MET FEBRUARY 5. BAC DRAFT RECORDS 10, 11 AND 12 WERE APPROVED WITH MINOR CHANGES. CENTO 1974-75 BUDGET WAS DISCUSSED AND FINAL POINTS AGREED TO. GRADED STAFF SALARIES WERE INCREASED 15 PERCENT, AUXILIARY STAFF 20 PERCENT RETROACTIVE TO OCTOBER 1, 1974 (SEE PARA 3 BELOW). THORNY QUESTION OF ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWANCES WAS SETTLED, BUDGETING 2200 POUNDS STERLING FOR SECRETARY GENERAL (SG) AND 250 PS EACH FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT AND THE FOUR DEPUTY SECRETARIES GENERAL. SEPARATE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS WERE DESIGNATED FOR SG'S RECEPTION DURING MINISTERIAL MEETING AND FOR CENTO 20TH ANNIVERSARY. (FORMER ITEM IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AS A SEPARATE ITEM IN ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWANCE CHAPTER IN FUTURE BUDGETS.) THE DELEGATES ALSO APPROVED 1800 PS FOR THE MOVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE IN TEHRAN TO SEPARATE OFFICES. DISCUSSION ON WHETHER THIS MOVE REQUIRES APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES (CD) WAS DERERRED. THE MOVE IS BEING MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE IRANIANS DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF SPACE IN THE MINISTRY BUILDING.

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UNDER OTHER AGENDA BUSINESS, DELEGATES REFERRED TO

SECRETARIAT'S GROUP OF EXPERTS WHO CONSIDER PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS THE INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 9 OF CENTO STAFF REGULATIONS (BAC/74/D14). UK DELEGATE OBSERVED THAT ARTICLE SHOULD BE APPLIED EVENLY TO APPLICANTS FROM EACH OF THE CENTO COUNTRIES.

2. UNDER NEW BUSINESS, THE DSG (P&A) REQUESTED WAIVER OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS IN ONE CASE TO PERMIT RETENTION OF 4000 PS DESIGNATED, BUT NOT SPENT, FROM THE 1973-UR BUDGET FOR REPAIR OF CEILINGS IN CENTO HEADQUARTERS. (UNDER FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, FUNDS NOT SPENT WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF END OF A FINANCIAL YEAR ARE RETURNED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES.) DSG (P&A) POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD EXPERT ADVICE FROM FIRMS CONTACTED FOR THE RESTORATION WORK THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN DURING DAMP WINTER SEASON. SHOULD BE DONE ALL AT ONE TIME AND IN NO CASE SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED PRIOR TO REPAIRING THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING. DSG (P&A) IS CONTINUING HIS CONTACTS WITH MFA ON THIS MATTER WHICH WAS DEFERRED BY THE UK DELEGATE SO HE COULD QUERY LONDON. (AN ADDITIONAL 4000 PS IS BUDGETED IN 1974-75 BUDGET TO COMPLETE RESTORATION WORK.) PURCHASE OF A BUICK ELECTRA WAS APPROVED FOR NEW SG. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT IN FUTURE SG'S CAR WOULD BE REPLACED EVERY TWO YEARS TO AVOID THE PRESENT SITUATION OF EXCESSIVE MAINTENANCE BILLS. NO DECISION WAS MADE ON ADOPTING A CENTO COURIER CERTIFICATE, PENDING RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS BY UK DELEGATE. DSG(P&A) REPORTED THE EXISTANCE OF A DISASTER CONTINGENCY FUND OF 2500 PS FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND 750 PS FOR CMPS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR PAKISTANI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF. DSG(P&A) ASKED APPROVAL TO PAY FROM THIS FUND AND FOR A DECISION WHETHER THE FUND SHOULD BE REPLENISHED TO ITS ORIGINAL AMOUNT FOR FUTURE DISASTERS. UK DELEGATE DEFERRED THIS ITEM TO NEXT MEETING PENDING RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO INSTRUCT US DELEGATE WHETHER PAYMENT MAY BE MADE IN CENTO'S NAME FROM THIS FUND FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WHETHER USG APPROVES REPLENISHMENT OF FUND. (INTEREST EARNED BY CONTINGENCY FUND IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES ANNUALLY.)

3. MAJOR ITEM OF MEETING WAS STATEMENT BY TURKISH DELEGATION INSISTING ON AN ADDITIONAL 10 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE

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FOR AUXILIARY STAFF MEMBERS (TOTAL 30 PERCENT IN 1974-75 BUDGET). TURK DELEGATE FURTHER STATED TURKS WOULD PRESENT AMENDMENTS TO CENTO STAFF REGULATIONS INTENDED TO INCREASE AUXILIARY STAFF BENEFITS (SPECIFICALLY EDUCATION AND CHILDREN ALLOWANCES) TO LEVELS OF GRADED STAFF. TURK PRESENTATION WAS ABRUPT AND MADE WITH TONE OF FINALITY, INTIMATING POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE BY AUXILIARIES IF THEIR REQUEST NOT MET. FUTHERMORE, TURK DELEGATE WITHHELD FINAL APPROVAL OF BUDGET PENDING ADOPTION

OF THESE AMENDMENTS BY BAC AND CD. DSG (P&A) TOLD US
DELEGATE LATER THAT TURK DELEGATE HAD SAID PROPOSAL HAD SUPPORT
OF MINISTRY OF LABOR, TURKISH GENERAL STAFF AND NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL. INCLUDED IS PROVISION FOR AUXILIARY STAFF
TO JOIN HARB-IS UNION. DISCUSSION AND MEETING ENEDE AFTER
EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE BY OTHER DELEGATES AND DSG (P&A) WHO
SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE SECRETARIAT IF AUXILIARY STAFF WENT
ON STRIKE. NEXT STEP WOULD APPEAR TO BE STUDY BY BAC OF
AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY TURKS. (BAC CANNOT MEET UNTIL MARCH
BECAUSE PAKISTANI DELEGATE HAS LEFT TOWN ON MONTH'S LEAVE.
HIS AMBASSADOR WILL NOT SEND A DEPUTY IN HIS PLACE. PREPARATION
OF TURKISH AMENDMENTS IS ECPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT THIS LONG
ANYWAY.) PAK AMBASSADOR WHEN BRIEFED ON THIS DEVELOPMENT
SAID HE FELT HE HIMSELF HAD NO OTHER RE COURSE THAN TO RE-
SERVE HIS APPROVAL OF BOTH STAFF AND AUXILIARY STAFF INCREASES
IN THE BUDGET.

4. COMMENT: TURKISH DEMANDS MAKE EXTENDED DELAY IN
APPROVAL OF BUDGET UNAVOIDABLE. WHEN AMENDMENTS ARE TABLED
IT WILL BECOME CLEAR JUST WHAT TURKS HOPE TO GAIN FOR THEIR
33 FELLOW CITIZENS.
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